



## **DEFENSE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

### **For Psychological Health & Traumatic Brain Injury**

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**For Immediate Release -**

**DoD Mental Health, Traumatic Brain Injury Center Installs New Director**

SILVER SPRING, MD. – The Defense Department organization responsible for advancing excellence in psychological health and traumatic brain injury prevention and care in the Military Health System (MHS), welcomed a new director yesterday.

Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mike Colston accepted authority of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) in a ceremony presided over by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC) and Fort Detrick, Army Major Gen. Brian C. Lein. Colston took over the position from Navy Capt. Richard Stoltz, who will retire later this year after two years at the helm of the agency and 29 years of honorable military service.

“During Capt. Stoltz’s tenure as DCoE Director, he created strong collaborations with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as Veterans Affairs, Health Affairs, and other federal agencies and civilian agencies to improve treatment and standardize outcome measures for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury,” said Lein. “As we wish him the best in his transition to the civilian sector, we also welcome Capt. Colston to the USAMRMC family. He brings to DCoE a wealth of knowledge and experience to lead this multiservice team successfully into the future.”

Distinguished guests present included Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs; Dr. David J. Smith, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight; Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas J. Robb, director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA); Dr. Charles L. Rice, president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Navy Rear Adm. Bruce Doll, director of Research, Development and Acquisition for DHA and deputy commander of MRMC; and U.S. Public Health Service Rear Adm. Joan Hunter, assistant joint surgeon at the National Guard Bureau, Joint Surgeon General’s Office.

Stoltz took charge as DCoE director in May 2013. He immediately led the agency through transition from alignment with the Tricare Management Activity to the Secretary of the Army as an Army Executive Agency, with further operational alignment to the Office of the Army Surgeon General, Medical Command and further alignment to MRMC. Leading a blended staff of military, civil service, Public Health Service officers and contracting partners located across the country and overseas, Stoltz established the agency’s mission, vision and strategic objectives which have enabled DCoE to successfully collaborate across the Defense Department, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other agencies to provide leadership and expertise, drive policy, and achieve improvements in psychological

health and TBI outcomes. Under his leadership, the agency developed methods to narrow the gap between the researcher, health care provider and caregiver in order to foster a high quality of care throughout MHS. Also of note, Stoltz chaired a task force that determined the core group of functions for the Centers of Excellence throughout the Defense Department.

Colston, a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, brings to his tenure as DCoE director a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience that will enable him to seamlessly continue the work the agency has begun. Colston joined the Navy as a line officer, serving as a nuclear engineer and surface warfare officer aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), deploying twice to the Arabian Sea and completing a Pacific Rim Exercise. He then commanded a shore-based patrol boat as an officer-in-charge, afloat. Transitioning to medical corps service, he earned a medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, completed residency training in psychiatry at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and completed a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Prior to DCoE, Colston served as director of the Mental Health Program in the Health Benefits Policy and Oversight Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) where he worked on efforts mandated by the White House and Congress, and participated in federal research consortia, including the National Institutes of Health Advisory Council on Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Colston previously served as chief of the Psychiatry Department at the Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Illinois. During a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom he led an Army combat and operational stress team. He authored a chapter on posttraumatic stress disorder in the "Textbook of Military Medicine" series, and is board certified in child and adolescent psychiatry. As a clinician, Colston treats service members coping with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

In his role as director, Colston is responsible for the work of DCoE headquarters and centers, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, the Deployment Health Clinical Center and the National Center for Telehealth and Technology, and a combined mission to improve the lives of our nation's service members, families and veterans by advancing excellence in psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI) prevention and care.

To learn more about DCoE, visit the agency's website at [dcoe.mil](http://dcoe.mil).

### **About DCoE**

The mission of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) is to improve the lives of our nation's service members, veterans and their families by advancing excellence in psychological health and traumatic brain injury prevention and care. DCoE is comprised of three centers: Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC), Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) and National Center for Telehealth and Technology (T2). Learn more about DCoE at [dcoe.mil](http://dcoe.mil).